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Message Text

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41
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 ARA-16 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 CIEP-02 NIC-01

SCCT-02 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /222 W
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R 170642Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3672
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AS, XF, CY, CU
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JULY 16:
CYPRUS, RELATIONS WITH CUBA, PLO INFORMATION OFFICE

REF: CANBERRA A-111 JULY 9, 1974

1. BULK OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JULY 16 WAS DEVOTED TO RELATIVELY MINOR ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES, DETAILS OF PRESENT POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES IN PARLIAMENT, AND POST OFFICE CHARGES. TWO ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST (ON CYPRUS AND RELATIONS WITH CUBA) WERE TAKEN UP. EARLIER ON JULY 16 THE PRIME MINISTER ANSWERED A QUESTION ON THE PROPOSED PLO INFORMATION OFFICE (REFAIR) DURING QUESTION TIEM IN PARLIAMENT.

2. CYPRUS- QUESTIONED ABOUT GOA ATTITUDE ON SITUATION IN CYPRUS, WHITLAM NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD LITTLE INFO IN ADDITION
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TO WHAT IS CARRIED IN PRESS. HE CONCLUDED , "WE HAVE

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SHOWN OURSELVES ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE WITH THE UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS. WE HAVE BEEN THERE NOW FOR MANY YEARS. AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO FIVE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR MAINTAINING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICE FROM AUSTRALIA IN CYPUS."

3. RELATIONS WITH CUBA - ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD FURTHER EXPAND AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, WHITLAM NOTED THAT BOTH HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SEE HAVE VISITED A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTIRIES ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA, HE SAID THAT WHEN HE VISITED JAPAN IN OCT, 1973, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR. WHITLAM SAID, " I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK OUR AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY TO THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR OUR WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH SUCH RELATIONS. I'M NOT SURE THE ARRANGMENTS HAVE YET BEEN CONSUMATED. IF YOU WANT THE FULL DETAILS, THEN I CAN GET THEM FOR YOU."

4. PLO INFORMATION CENTER-ASKED IN PARLIAMENT JULY 16 BY A LIBERAL OPPOSITION MEMBER WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO INFORMATION CENTER IN AUSTRALIA, WHITLAM SAID, "THERE HAS BEEN NO APPLICATION BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA. ANY SUCH APPLICATION, OF COURSE, WOULD CERTAINLY BE SCRUTINIZED IN THE CONTEXT OF ANY POSSIBLE TERRORISM." NOTING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS REGARDING SUCH AN OFFICE, ORIGINATING WITH A LABOR PARTY MEMBER (REFAIR), WHITLAM SAID, " I HASTEN TO ASSURE HONORABLE MEMBERS THAT THIS WAS DONE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT."
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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